



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 December 2007

Current Nationwide



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- The Baltimore Sun reports that the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating a near collision at the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. The incident is being investigated as “an action by an air traffic controller that results in less than the required minimum separation between two aircraft,” documents show. (See item [13](#))
- According to Gannett News Service, theft of personal data grew more than three times in 2007. Names, birth dates, account numbers, and Social Security numbers have increased in value in the cybercrime underground. Meanwhile, organizations expose rich veins of such data as they convert paper documents into digital records. (See item [29](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 10, Bloomberg* – (Texas) **Houston Ship Channel closed to tanker traffic because of fog.** The Houston Ship Channel, which serves the largest U.S. petroleum port, is closed to tanker traffic and other vessels because of fog. The waterway was shut yesterday by pilots at 1:15 a.m. local time and remains closed, a spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard said today in a telephone interview. The 54-mile Houston Ship Channel typically has 55 vessel movements a day. It takes two to three days before a shutdown begins to affect operations at Houston-area refineries. Houston has the second-biggest port of any kind by tonnage. More than 420 petrochemical plants and two of the nation’s

four largest oil refineries are in the Houston area, according to the Greater Houston Partnership.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aF7DymCs7uYU&refer=energy>

2. *December 10, Platts* – (National) **Tennessee Gas, Equitable to develop Northeast Passage gas line.** Tennessee Gas Pipeline and Equitable Resources said Monday they will jointly develop the Northeast Passage Project, a 471 mile interstate natural gas pipeline with initial capacity of 1.1 Bcf/d. The project, designed to provide new transportation service between the terminus of the Rockies Express Pipeline and markets in the U.S. Northeast, will start at Clarington, Ohio, and end at a new interconnect with Iroquois Gas Transmission in Pleasant Valley, New York. Tennessee also said the project will also provide interconnections into Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line, Texas Eastern Transmission, Algonquin Gas Transmission and Millennium Pipeline. In addition, Tennessee proposes to expand its 300 and 200 lines to provide direct access to markets in New York and New England. This project also will interconnect with Tennessee's Gulf Coast mainline in Ohio, providing access to Midcontinent, Appalachian, and Gulf Coast supplies, including liquefied natural gas. The project has a planned in-service date of November 1, 2011, subject to documentation between the parties and regulatory approvals. Tennessee's senior vice president and chief commercial officer said in a statement that the pipeline will provide an alternative supply source for declining Canadian supplies.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/HOME/News/6647922.xml?sub=HOME&p=HOME/News&?undefined&undefined>

3. *December 10, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **New Toledo plant will convert methane into energy.** Construction has begun on a \$26 million facility that will convert landfill methane gas into power. The plant will be funded through a \$1.26 million federal grant and \$24.74 million in a low-interest loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission, said a spokeswoman for the city's mayor. "It will begin generating power in the spring of 2009 and we will be able to produce enough power to sustain the Department of Public Utilities completely and save \$2 million a year," the spokeswoman said. The project will include a pipeline from the Hoffman Road landfill to carry methane gas to the Bay View wastewater treatment plant. The city plans to pipe the landfill's methane 2.5 miles to the sewage plant, where it will be used to spin turbines that generate electricity.

Source:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071210/NEWS16/712100339>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *December 8, Lexington Herald-Leader* – (Kentucky) **Sarin disposal set for spring.** Officials outlined plans Friday to dispose of 157 gallons of chemical agent involved in

the biggest liquid leak in the history of Blue Grass Army Depot. GB, a nerve agent commonly known as sarin, is scheduled to be drained, neutralized, and removed from the depot by May. The project will cost about \$1.7 million and will take 80 days to complete, said the program manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, the agency responsible for the destruction of the depot's chemical weapons stockpile. The three one-ton steel containers that hold GB have been deteriorating because of the corrosive nature of the chemical and the decontaminants it is mixed with. A leak was detected in one of the containers on August 27. Officials will use a chemical-agent transfer system brought in from Maryland to take the GB from its containers to a 20-gallon reactor, where it will be neutralized. Forklifts will move the one-ton containers to sealed glove boxes that personnel will use to transfer the GB to the reactor. About 2,900 gallons of waste will be produced from the neutralization. It will be shipped to a facility designed to store industrial waste.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/211/story/252929.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *December 10, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **FPL gets approval to boost power at four Florida nuclear plants.** Florida utility regulators unanimously signed off today on Florida Power & Light Co.'s request to upgrade each of its four nuclear reactors - two at the St. Lucie plant on Hutchinson Island and two others at the Turkey Point plant near Miami. The move would add 414 megawatts of power to the grid between 2011 and 2012. The expansion is part of FPL's larger nuclear program, which includes adding two additional reactors at Turkey Point. Under the plan, customers will be getting 30 percent of their electricity from nuclear fission by 2020.

Source:

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/business/epaper/2007/12/10/1210FPL.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcac=6>

6. *December 8, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Idaho test reactor opens to universities.** The U.S. Department of Energy is making available to university researchers a nuclear reactor test facility in southeast Idaho so they might learn how to build better nuclear power plants. The Idaho National Laboratory's Advanced Test Reactor earlier this week issued a call for proposals from universities to conduct irradiation experiments. The Department of Energy last year designated the Idaho test reactor a National Scientific User Facility, making it available to universities. The agency is looking for university experiments that test materials, nuclear fuel, and instruments that operate in the reactors. The opening of the facility to university researchers comes at a time of renewed interest in nuclear energy that is being driven by increased energy demands and concerns about global warming from the burning of coal and other fossil fuels.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/08/AR2007120800431.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *December 10, Los Angeles Business* – (National) **Northrop gets Army deal worth \$600M.** Northrop Grumman Corp. on Monday was awarded a logistics contract from the U.S. Army worth up to \$600 million. The seven-year contract is part of Global Combat Support System-Army program. Northrop's Mission System division will develop a system providing the current status of all Army equipment and assets so that soldiers can best anticipate, allocate, and manage available resources.
Source:
http://www.bizjournals.com/losangeles/stories/2007/12/10/daily3.html?ana=from_rss
8. *December 7, Federal Times* – (National) **Army to create contracting command.** The Army is standing up a two-star command and hiring 1,400 more people to improve its contracting operations and better enable its contracting personnel to support combat operations overseas, senior leaders testified December 6 on Capitol Hill. "The United States Army has never fought an extended conflict that required such reliance on contractor support," said the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology. "We are currently addressing the need to expand, train, structure, and empower our contracting personnel to support a full range of military operations." The two-star command will fall under Materiel Command, and Army leaders plan to grow its contracting personnel by 400 soldiers and 1,000 civilian workers.
Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=3236331>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *December 10, Frederick News-Post* – (Maryland) **Police warn of phone scam.** The Frederick Police Department in Maryland reports it has recently received several complaints about a phone scam claiming free Medicare coverage. The caller tells the person they have qualified for free Medicare coverage and that they need to verify their address and bank account information. Police urge residents not to disclose any personal information until the legitimacy of a call has been confirmed.
Source:
<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/displayUpdate.htm?StoryID=68681>
10. *December 10, Merced Sun-Star* – (California) **Internet scam targets Merced.** Merced police in California say, since November, there have been more than 20 reports of residents who have been victims of international Internet scams offering "fast, easy money." A detective said most of the scams involve e-mails or advertisements from bogus overseas companies offering money for people willing to perform as payees with checks, money orders, and traveler's checks sent through the mail, FedEx, and UPS. He said most of the scams instruct victims to keep 10 percent of the funds, while wiring the remainder outside the United States. Unknown to the victim, the checks or money orders are counterfeit. Some victims in Merced have reported losing more than \$25,000. Merced police have been working with U.S. Postal Service inspectors to crack down on

the online scammers.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/local/story/147451.html>

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Transportation Sector

11. *December 9, AHN News* – (Florida) **All passengers aboard aircraft that collided feared dead.** All passengers onboard the two six-seater aircraft that collided in midair and plunged into the Florida Everglades, 14 miles northwest of Pompano Beach in Florida, on Saturday were feared dead. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, both of the light planes are PA-30 Pipers. Investigators are still working on the crash. It has been confirmed that the collision occurred in airspace that is often busy with light planes.
Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7009403200>
12. *December 9, Associated Press* – (New York) **Senator: NY airports need technology to prevent collisions.** LaGuardia, John F. Kennedy International, and Newark (New Jersey) Liberty International airports do not have the surface detection equipment technology that alerts air traffic controllers to potential collisions within 5 miles of an airport, including on runways, a U.S. senator said. Furthermore, the airports remain at the bottom of the list to receive the new technology, and LaGuardia will be among the last airports to receive it in December 2010, said the lawmaker. Kennedy was slated to receive the new system in August of 2008 and Newark in July 2009, he said. The official's comments come three days after a plane taxied onto a runway where a plane was about to land at Newark Liberty. The senator called on Federal Aviation Administration officials to expedite the installation of the collision technology, which he said was particularly helpful in bad weather and at night, at New York area airports. However, an FAA spokesman said the schedule to install the technology was based on several factors including how busy an airport is and the complexity of an airport's runway and taxiway infrastructure and procedures. Some airports received the technology ahead of New York's airports while others will receive it later, the FAA spokesman said.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--runwaycollisions1209dec09.0,1443168.story>
13. *December 8, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **U.S. officials investigate near-collision at BWI.** Two planes nearly collided at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport this week as one aircraft took off just above another that had landed, federal officials said. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the near-collision, which occurred at the intersection of two runways at 7:20 p.m. Sunday, December 3. The investigation of the "runway incursion" is focusing on possible mistakes by air traffic controllers in the tower, not pilot error, said a spokesman with the Federal Aviation Administration. The spokesman said the near-collision involved a ComAir Flight with 46 aboard, and a U.S. Airways/America West Flight with 155 aboard. The incident is being investigated as "an action by an air traffic controller that results in less than the required minimum separation between two aircraft," documents

show.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.bwi08dec08,0,812834.story>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *December 8, KVUE Austin* – (Texas) **Hazmat scare politically motivated.** A threatening letter to Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, an anti-tax group, forced the partial evacuation of a downtown building Friday afternoon. Emergency crews swarmed the Plains Capital Bank in Austin building just after 2 pm on Saturday after the group's president opened a threatening letter that contained a black powdery substance. Hazmat crews and Austin Police responded to the scene. The entire 11th floor and several other offices in the building were evacuated. When authorities were finally able to test the powder, it turned out to be harmless. The Austin Police Department's Homeland Defense Unit and the FBI are now investigating the source of the letter.

Source: <http://www.kvue.com/news/peters/stories/120707kvuewmdthreat-mm.7a2e63aa.html>

15. *December 7, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Rock salt on envelope causes hazmat scare.** Police say white powder on an envelope triggered a hazmat scare in Barnegat, New Jersey. A 32-year-old woman called 911 Friday evening complaining of breathing problems after noticing a white substance on a manila envelope delivered to her house. The Ocean County hazmat team was called in and they determined the substance was rock salt, not anthrax. Police say the envelope apparently picked up a coating from material spread after this week's snowfall. The woman was examined and was expected to be released.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--hazmat-rocksalt1207dec07,0,3898950.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *December 10, U.S. Department of Agriculture* – (National) **USDA to host citrus greening summit.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will host a summit on citrus greening and the Asian citrus psyllid to enhance prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Citrus greening is one of the more serious diseases of citrus fruit. Currently, there are 28 counties in Florida quarantined for citrus greening; 32 counties in Texas and Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam are quarantined for the Asian citrus psyllid, which spreads the disease. The meeting, which is intended to provide a forum for federal, state, and industry representatives to collaboratively discuss these efforts and integrate activities across all sectors to improve America's defense against this disease will take place on December 17 and 18 in Bethesda, Maryland. Summit participants will include specific subject matter experts from citrus-producing states who represent the industry, regulatory and research arenas. Other USDA agencies also will attend, including the Agricultural

Marketing Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Risk Management Agency.

Source: <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=54724>

17. *December 7, FDA.gov* – (National) **Trader Joe's Company voluntarily recalls 12 oz. pinjur.** Trader Joe's Company is voluntarily recalling 1,000 cases of 12 ounce jars of Trader Joe's Pinjur, UPC 00529068, Best By 10/2009. The Best By date can be found printed on the top of the lid. The product, which was potentially sold in stores across Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, the District of Columbia, and Wisconsin, is being recalled because customers reported finding small pieces of glass in the product.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/traderjoe12_07.html

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Water Sector

18. *December 10, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **L.A.'s water savings are just a drop in the bucket.** Six months ago, Los Angeles' mayor called for voluntary water conservation in a record dry year. City records show that this appeal has failed to persuade residents and businesses to rein in water use substantially. Despite the mayor's June 6 plea for a ten percent reduction, water use in the city remained largely flat through October, compared with the same period last year, according to records from the city Department of Water and Power. Now some environmentalists want the mayor to go further and endorse mandatory restrictions, such as those that have reaped significant water savings this fall in Long Beach. The mayor has said that "if science supported it," he would declare a state of drought and impose mandatory water restrictions. City water officials said Friday that they planned to wait several more months to see if water supplies improve before resorting to such measures.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-water10dec10,1,4453315.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california>

19. *December 9, United Press International* – (Southwest) **Colorado River states eyeing drought plan.** The seven U.S. states bordering the Colorado River and struggling with a regional dry spell are set to meet in Las Vegas to ratify a new drought plan, which would focus on conserving the region's water supply during the drought, specifically Lake Powell and Lake Mead on Arizona's borders, the Arizona Republic said Sunday. The proposed plan will attempt to address declining water levels at the two key reservoirs and in the river itself. Officials said that with no end of the drought in sight, the plan between Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming could help prolong the region's water supply.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2007/12/09/colorado_river_states_eyeing_drought_plan/6178/

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *December 9, RTE* – (International) **New bird flu outbreak in Poland.** The H5N1 bird flu virus has been found at a new farm in Poland some 1.2 miles from a site where it was discovered on Saturday. The virus was detected at a farm with about 360,000 birds within a danger zone set up after the previous bird flu discovery. Polish authorities have said they expect the ban on poultry products from the affected region to be extended as new centers of infection are found. One of the European Union's biggest poultry producers, Poland exported 230,000 tons of poultry to European markets last year.
Source: <http://www.rte.ie/news/2007/1209/poland.html>
21. *December 7, Reuters* – (International) **Study shows how Chikungunya virus spread so far.** A new virus called the Chikungunya virus, which causes painful and sometimes crippling symptoms, has spread to several new countries in the past year because it has found a new species of mosquito to carry it, researchers said on Friday. A single mutation allowed the virus to infect the Asian tiger mosquito, which is spreading to countries in Europe and North America, the researchers said. "This mutation increases the potential for Chikungunya virus to permanently extend its range into Europe and the Americas."
Source: <http://africa.reuters.com/wire/news/usnN07297819.html>

Government Facilities Sector

22. *December 8, ABC News* – (International) **Did Iceland teen call secret White House phone?** Introducing himself as the actual president of Iceland, a 16-year-old high school student from Iceland found President George W. Bush's allegedly secret telephone number and phoned, requesting a private meeting with him. A White House official, who asked not to be identified, denied the young man had accessed a private number but instead dialed 202-456-1414, the main switchboard for the West Wing. However, the student's mother said her son did, in fact, get through to a private phone. The teen claims he was passed on to several people, each of them quizzing him on Iceland's president's date of birth, where he grew up, who his parents were, and the date he entered office. "It was like passing through checkpoints," he said. "But I had Wikipedia and a few other sites open, so it was not so difficult really." When he finally got through to President Bush's secretary, the teen alleges he was told to expect a call back from President Bush. Instead, the police showed up at his home and took him to the local police station, where they questioned the 16-year-old for several hours. "The police chief said they were under orders from U.S. officials to 'find the leak' -- that I had to tell them where I had found the number," he said. "Otherwise, I would be banned from ever entering the United States." The student claims he cannot remember where he got the number. He was eventually released into his parent's custody, and no charges have been brought against the high school student. When ABC verified the number, it was the

Secret Service Uniform Division, which handles security for the president. Calls to the Secret Service press office were not returned.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Story?id=3973925&page=2>

23. *December 7, Community Press* – (Ohio) **Student facing charges after gun scare on bus.** Four Winton Woods students were arrested in Ohio after one of them allegedly brought a gun onto a school bus and threatened to use it during an argument. The incident began December 4 on the way to school when one student allegedly said he had a gun during an argument. The bus stopped and several of the students in the argument got off. Forest Park police officers found an unloaded semi-automatic pistol in one of the students' home. The juvenile has been charged with inducing panic.

Source:

<http://news.communitypress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071207/NEWS01/712070314>

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *December 10, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Oil, gas companies fund Wyoming ambulance.** Many oil and gas fields around the world are located in remote areas like southwest Wyoming or on platforms far offshore. In the United States, companies are required to have people in the field who are trained to treat injuries, but accidents requiring emergency care can mean long waits for an ambulance or helicopter. Recently, four companies — Shell, EnCana, Ultra and BP — contributed \$900,000 toward the new ambulance and a place to house it. Sublette County chipped in an additional \$500,000. Stationed where two rural highways meet, the ambulance is within 10 miles of two of the most active gas fields in the state. While it used to take 30 minutes or more just to reach the entrance to the gas fields, it now takes less than eight minutes, officials say.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071210/ap_on_re_us/energy_remote_response:_ylt=Ajr6MmP2WnuXl_Urz17efepG2ocA

25. *December 7, Federal Emergency Management Agency* – (Washington) **Four Washington fire departments share \$679,127 in firefighter assistance grants from FEMA.** On December 7, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency awarded four separate grants, totaling \$679,127, in Assistance-to-Firefighters Grants to four fire departments in Washington. Three of the grants were awarded to the Clarkston Fire Department/Rescue One, Spokane County Fire District #9, and Walla Walla County Fire District # 4 for operations and safety; one was awarded to South Pierce Fire and Rescue for Vehicle Acquisition. AFG awards aim to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles. AFG also supports regional projects in which multiple organizations

serving more than one local jurisdiction benefit directly from activities implemented with grant funds.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=41861>

26. *December 7, Government Executive* – (National) **Coast Guard expands wireless maritime 911 system.** The Coast Guard is expanding the coverage of its Rescue 21 wireless command-and-control system for port security and enhanced direction technology for maritime search and rescue in the New York and Delaware Bay areas in January 2008. Software problems initially delayed production of the high-tech network that is deployed on radio towers along the coastline and inland waterways. Those glitches have been resolved, according to a Coast Guard captain and Rescue 21, built by General Dynamics C4 Systems in Scottsdale, Arizona, has entered full production. Designed to replace the obsolete National Distress Response System built during the 1970s, the \$735 million Rescue 21 system is being installed over the next 14 months and eventually will provide wireless communication along 95,000 miles of coastline and waterways. One of the most important features of Rescue 21 is its ability to plot the exact location of a rescue call. Now, the Coast Guard can get a direct line of bearing on the caller and greatly speed rescue times. Rescue 21 also allows archiving of the digital calls, and since many transmissions are garbled, they then can be digitally enhanced and deciphered. In addition, the old system had a single channel, which meant the Coast Guard could monitor only one emergency call at a time. The Rescue 21 system provides five VHF channels and is interoperable with UHF systems used by law enforcement and emergency first responders. The direction technology also helps the Coast Guard weed out hoaxes, which the captain said comprise 15 percent of all calls.

Source: <http://govexec.com/dailyfed/1207/120707g1.htm>

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Information Technology

27. *December 10, Computer Weekly* – (National) **Information security strategies fail to meet corporate needs.** Information security remains isolated from executive management and business strategy, according to the Ernst & Young Global Information Security Survey. The survey of executives at around 1,300 firms worldwide, says companies are still failing to implement a holistic approach towards information security, as the security function remains too isolated from executive management and the strategic decision-making process. The survey reveals that a third of information security personnel never meet with company board or audit committee members, and over a quarter of information security personnel do not report to business leaders on information security compliance or incidents.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2007/12/10/228533/information-security-strategies-fail-to-meet-corporate.htm>

28. *December 10, Computer Weekly* – (National) **2007: A year of sophisticated web threats.** This year has seen even more sophisticated and targeted web attacks come of age, says the MessageLabs Intelligence 2007 Annual Security Report. The web security firm says 2007 has been a year of diversity, because of the vast number of new tactics,

techniques, and trojans entering the security market during the last 12 months. As the year progressed, so did the variety in file attachments being used as well as the transition to using malicious links, which are able to travel under the radar of signature based anti-virus technology and provoking less suspicion from the e-mail recipients. At the beginning of the year, only three percent of e-mail-borne viruses contained malicious links, said MessageLabs. However, by December, 25 percent of e-mails had a vicious link. This trend demonstrates how virus writers are becoming increasingly sophisticated in the malware they create in order to avoid detection and increase their chances of penetrating a vulnerable system, said MessageLabs. This year also saw the emergence of threats targeting the fast-growing and vulnerable area of social networking. Web sites such as Facebook, Linked-In, and Plaxo present rich-pickings to cyber criminals looking to gather personal information for use in identity theft or targeted attacks, says the report.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2007/12/10/228535/2007-a-year-of-sophisticated-web-threats.htm>

29. *December 10, Gannett News Service* – (National) **Theft of personal data in '07 grows more than 3 times.** More than 162 million personal records have been reported lost or stolen in 2007; triple the 49.7 million that went missing in 2006, according to USA Today's analysis of data losses reported over the past two years. This year, news stories have been written about data losses disclosed by 98 companies, 85 schools, 80 government agencies, and 39 hospitals and clinics, according to a database at tech security Web site Attrition.org; arrests or prosecutions have been reported in just 19 cases. Names, birth dates, account numbers, and Social Security numbers have increased in value in the cybercrime underground. Meanwhile, organizations expose rich veins of such data as they convert paper documents into digital records. Business data worldwide are expected to swell to 988 billion gigabytes by 2010, up from 161 billion gigabytes in 2006, says researcher IDC. As they "cram more and more data into a single place," companies and agencies present thieves with more opportunities for a big score, says said the vice president of technology at Cryptography Research.

Source: <http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/news3963.html>

30. *December 9, International Herald Tribune* – (National) **Cyber attack on U.S. nuclear arms lab linked to China.** A cyber attack reported last week by one of the federal government's nuclear weapons laboratories may have originated in China, according to a confidential memorandum distributed to public and private security officials by the Department of Homeland Security. Security researchers said the memorandum, which was obtained by The New York Times from an executive at a private company, included a list of Web and Internet addresses that were linked to locations in China. However, they noted that such links did not prove that the Chinese government or Chinese citizens were involved in the attacks. In the past, intruders have compromised computers in China and then used them to disguise their true location. Officials at the laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, said the attacks did not compromise classified information, though they acknowledged that they were still working to understand the full extent of the intrusion.

Source: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/12/09/news/hack.php>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

31. *December 7, Associated Press* – (New York) **NY governor stumps for cheap statewide broadband in NY.** New York's governor on Thursday announced his plan to provide broadband Internet service to even the most remote areas of the state. The affordable high-speed Internet service plan was part of what he said will be a transformation and expansion of New York's economy. Under his plan, a state Council for Universal Broadband, whose members include top information technology officials, representatives from local governments, and experts from academia, will distribute \$5 million in grants to research, design and provide broadband Internet. The plan is aimed at providing a tool to help the long stagnant economy in upstate counties. The initiative includes a plan to help New Yorkers learn how to get the most out of broadband service including job searches, school and college work, and establishing home businesses. More than 350 state government services and transactions are available on the Internet. He said the effort will take several years and evolve into an effort to provide wireless service statewide. The effort comes after legislative proposals have languished. Source: <http://www.technewsworld.com/story/60656.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *December 10, Scotland on Sunday* – (International) **Interpol chief warns of virus attack at sports event.** Police across the world say there is no doubt that terrorists are planning to release a plague virus at a major sports event. Experts are convinced that the bacteria will be distributed using something as simple as a child's plastic horn. With the Beijing Olympics just months away and the World Cup to be held in South Africa in 2010, there are plenty of opportunities for an attack. Security sources say the idea of terrorists using toy horns to distribute a deadly virus is a significant possibility. One insider told Scotland on Sunday, "This has come from information received from the authorities in Indonesia, where references to such a form of attack were discovered." Source: <http://almosteverafter.blogspot.com/2007/12/interpol-chief-warns-of-virus-attack-at.html>
33. *December 9, Fox News* – (Florida) **Woman accused of bringing loaded gun into Disney World.** A 63-year-old Pennsylvania woman was taken into custody for allegedly bringing a loaded semi-automatic into Disney World, Florida. The .32-caliber Beretta

handgun had been loaded with seven live rounds in the magazine, but the chamber was empty.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,316267,00.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *December 7, KHNL 8 Hawaii* – (Hawaii) **Haleakala National Park remains closed indefinitely.** Haleakala National Park summit area will remain closed until further notice. Friday morning, National Park ranger staff patrolled the road and determined conditions were unsafe. Rock and debris continue to collect on the road. The park remains without power and phone communications are limited. Maintenance crews and rangers are working through the closure to secure the park and clear hazards. Due to forecasts of renewed storm activity, the park is extending the closure until further notice. Park rangers continue to assess the road for any changes in conditions.

Source: <http://www.khnl.com/Global/story.asp?S=7461836>

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Dams Sector

35. *December 10, Independent* – (International) **‘Storm water containment dam breached.’** Uranium One said a breach of a storm water containment dam located at the Dominion Reefs Uranium Mine in South Africa occurred on Saturday. This was “as a result of abnormally high rainfall in the Clerkship area (approximately 2.3 inches in 30 minutes).” However, the company said that based on initial water sampling and analysis, “Uranium One does not expect any environmental impact due to the discharge.” Repairs to the dam wall were completed on Sunday and a full inspection has confirmed that no damage occurred to the tailings dam facility at Dominion mine, the company said.

Source:

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=14&art_id=nw20071210104419241C145268

36. *December 9, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Small leak found in Lake Lure dam.** A construction seam in the Lake Lure dam in North Carolina is leaking more than usual after an earthquake shook the area Friday morning. Town and state engineers evaluated the leak Saturday morning and determined that it was not “an immediate threat.” The mayor of the town said the engineers called it “a natural occurrence” and asked that the town monitor it.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=5823554>

37. *December 9, Orange County Register* – (California) **Eroding Huntington Beach levee survives storms.** In California, emergency work to repair a failing levee near the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, which threatens to flood hundreds of homes if it breaches, will begin in early January. Meanwhile, county employees have been patrolling the levee around the clock during recent rainstorms, ready to act if water in the channel reaches critical

levels. Workers are poised to take immediate action to stop flooding and evacuate a nearby neighborhood if the levee crumbles. The California Coastal Commission approved a permit in November for emergency repairs to the flood control channel, which is dotted with holes from burrowing animals. If a major storm causes water levels to rise and funnel through those holes, the levee could quickly erode, potentially flooding more than 400 homes.

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/levee-county-flood-1938313-control-channel>

38. *December 8, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Corps taps new contractor to fix Lake O dike.** A contractor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will resume digging January 9 near Port Mayaca to embed a 60-foot-deep wall of clay and cement inside and under Herbert Hoover Dike in Florida. A similar effort was halted last year after sand kept contaminating the wall. This time, the corps has a new contractor, which will use a Japanese-invented technique for digging a trench and simultaneously injecting the clay-cement mixture. The corps says the dike is one of its top national priorities. Nationwide, the dike is one of six dams that the corps considers in “urgent and compelling” need of repairs. Until the repairs are done, the corps says it needs to keep the lake lower than usual to avoid stressing the dike. That means the dike’s flaws are increasing the region’s vulnerability to drought.

Source:

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/storm/content/local_news/epaper/2007/12/08/m3c_Dike_1208.html

39. *December 8, Mohave Daily News* – (Arizona) **Group sues over operation of Glen Canyon Dam.** According to a federal lawsuit filed Friday in Phoenix, an environmental group says a key Colorado River dam is being mismanaged by the federal government, threatening already endangered species for the benefit of power production. The suit names the U.S. Interior Department’s Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the Glen Canyon Dam on the Arizona-Utah border. The Flagstaff-based group’s suit claims the government releases water from the lake behind the dam, Lake Powell, in a way that benefits power production but destroys downstream habitat for native fish. The lawsuit alleges that Reclamation has not followed its existing 1996 dam operations plan that was designed to adjust river flows to avoid undue environmental damage. “To put it bluntly, current flows from Glen Canyon Dam are in violation of federal law,” said the senior program director at the trust.

Source: <http://www.mohavedailynews.com/articles/2007/12/09/news/nation/nation4.txt>

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